

JANUARY 2023

THE SAHE SCOOP

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Welcome Fall - 2

Faculty Awards - 3 & 4

Lecturer Spotlight - 5

Veterans in SAHE - 6 & 7

Fall 2022 Graduate - 8

Ireland Trip - 9

Alumni Updates - 10



Hello SAHE Community!

As we transition to 2023, we are excited to share news from our students' professional endeavors, provide updates from alumni, and share our upcoming events. We are continuing to develop the program and ensure we are providing the best Student Affairs professional preparation possible. In mid-November, I had the privilege of attending the NASPA Western Regional conference in CA, to connect with prospective students and promote our western states tuition/residency agreement. I was encouraged by conversations with other program coordinators regarding the unique components and value of our MA program and the impact of the student affairs profession. I am also VERY excited that seventeen students, Dr. Witkowsky, Dr. Terainer Brown (UCCS SAHE and Phd Alum), and I are participating in the program's 5th study abroad experience in Ireland this January. We will be visiting four universities and seeing the sites of Dublin, Galway, and Cork. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break to refresh for the Spring semester.

Sincerely,
Dr. Phillip Morris
SAHE Program Director

HELLO FALL SEMESTER!



Our 1st year cohort students welcomed the start of the 2022 fall semester during their Saturday class!

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH MENTOR AWARD



Congratulations to Dr. Sylvia Mendez on being honored with the 2022 Outstanding Research Mentor Award from UCCS! This award recognizes a member of the faculty or staff that goes above and beyond to facilitate the success of research mentee's and contributes to a positive research culture at UCCS. We are so proud of Dr. Mendez for this amazing achievement!

NASPA REGION IV-W OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD



Congratulations to our very own Dr. Patty Witkowsky on being honored by NASPA Region IV-W with the 2022 Outstanding Faculty Award! In order to be awarded with this honor, the faculty member is evaluated on many different criteria. Some of these criteria include exemplifying consistent and excellent mentorship to graduate students and being a strong scholar practitioner. Dr. Witkowsky is beyond deserving of this award and we appreciate all of her support!

LECTURER SPOTLIGHT

Give a warm welcome to and get to know Dr. Homer Wesley (he/him), a new SAHE Program Lecturer.



A brief description of Dr. Wesley's current SAHE roles.

Dr. Wesley (he/him) is currently the Vice President for Student Services at Pikes Peak State College. He has been in this role at PPSC since February of 2016. Prior to working at PPSC, Dr. Wesley was the Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Enrollment Management at UCCS. Dr. Wesley has worked in SAHE for over 39 years and has held a variety of roles.

Can you tell us a little bit about your background?

"I grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and lived there from 1960 until I left for college in 1975. I did my undergraduate and master's study at Auburn University. I received an EdD from the University of Southern Mississippi while working there in administrative roles. As an undergrad I wandered ...from forestry to fisheries (hoping to work with the National Park Service) and eventually ended up with a BS from Auburn. I was offered an opportunity to work full-time at Auburn as I completed my undergraduate studies. While employed I entered and completed a Master of Education with an emphasis in Student Personnel in Higher Education, I fell in love with Higher Ed work during that time and have spent my entire career in student affairs/student services/enrollment management ... with heavy emphasis in the latter."

What are you most looking forward to about being a SAHE Program lecturer?

"I love the idea of sharing my professional experiences with others. I think the work we do in higher education is essential to our community and world. We should be (and are) about providing opportunity for our students and meeting the needs of our community. There is plenty of room for improvement but if we are continually engaged in examining our current work and services, we have an opportunity to continually evolve ...and 'leave it better than we found it'."

What are some of the most valuable lessons you have learned during your extensive career?

- "Building collaboration and buy-in is more important than immediate progress ... 'A leader with no followers is just out for a walk' (John Maxwell)."
- "Effective change is gradual ... it is about 'evolution not revolution' (Joe Paul)."
- "We must be open to change and continually learning."
- "The work we do as Student Affairs professionals is demanding but important and is our opportunity 'to change the world' (Margaret Mead)."

RECOGNIZING OUR VETERANS

In celebration of Veterans Day this past November, members of the SAHE community who served in the armed forces reflected on their experiences.

What branch of the military were you in, and why did you choose that branch?

"Army, [and because] my dad was in the Army."

How long did you serve for and what were your roles during that time?

"[I served for] 20 years. For 15 years I was a Combat Cameraman (Photographer) and the last 5 I was a Paralegal."

What motivated you to join the military?

"I was working at McDonalds and knew I did not want to go to college, and was ready to get out on my own."

How has your military service influenced your current career goals?

"Leading, teaching and mentoring during my time in the Army led me to student affairs, and I am striving to be the best SA professional I can."



**JASON PRESCOTT (HE/HIM),
2022 SAHE ALUMNI**

What skills from your military service have you brought with you into your SAHE career?

"[Some skills are] networking and mentoring."

What advice would you give to any veterans who may be considering going to graduate school or pursuing a career in student affairs?

"If you are looking for something that fills that mentoring/leading void from the military, student affairs can fill it. The camaraderie is in student affairs and is definitely there in the SAHE masters program, with the cohort model they use. Grad school and student affairs have both been rewarding and filled some holes left from retiring from the military, both endeavors are worth the time and effort."

TYLER TOOLE (HE/HIM), 2ND YEAR COHORT STUDENT



What branch of the military were you in, and why did you choose that branch?

"I chose the Army because my whole family served in the Army. My grandfather served as a crew chief in the 1970s, my stepdad served as an infantryman in Vietnam, and my brother served as a mechanic in Iraq. It felt fitting that I would join the army as well."

How has your military service influenced your current career goals?

"That is a great question; I love serving others and helping others develop and grow. As a team leader, my responsibility was to help my subordinates grow and develop. I guess you could say I didn't choose the SAHE life. The SAHE life chose me."

What motivated you to join the military?

"That's a funny story; I joined the military because I didn't think I was college material, and I really wasn't the academic type in high school, yet here I am finishing my Master's."

What skills from your military service have you brought into your SAHE career?

"If I had to choose three, perseverance, the ability to communicate with a diverse population, and authenticity. Perseverance—honestly, keep going, keep getting up after being knocked down, continue pushing myself when things seem impossible, and never quit. Communicate—with a diverse population— the army is a melting pot of people from all walks of life. So we all had to be able to communicate no matter what gender, race, and religion. The reason why this is so important is that the mission comes first before our agenda. Authenticity—if you are trying to fake being someone you are not in the Army, soldiers are going to see right through you, so I brought that over because students can tell if someone is being authentic."

What advice would you give to any veterans who may be considering going to graduate school or pursuing a career in student affairs?

"Some advice I would give for Graduate school and those wanting to do SAHE is:

1. It is worth it in the end; after all the hard work, late nights, early mornings, pots, and coffee, you will be amazed at how many more doors open up. I mean, you have been through worse physically, mentally, and spiritually in the military. So, you can do it.
2. Take time for yourself, learn the art of creating a balanced life, and don't burn yourself out; it's not worth it in the end because you will not be enjoying it, and you will want to quit whatever program you are doing.
3. Start networking and making connections and they can ultimately open doors for you down the road."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FALL 2022 GRADUATE!

Our Fall 2022 graduate, Liz Fagerness (she/her), gives us a deeper look into her experiences and time in the SAHE Program.

What are your current post-graduation plans or goals?

"I just took a new job working for CU system on the annual giving team. I'll work as a liaison for the Denver campus and support grassroots fundraising strategies to help support student led initiatives and scholarship programs. For now I think I'll stay in the Advancement world, I love being able to contribute to the financial needs of our universities through my work."

What is the most important lesson you learned during your time in the program?

"I learned about how essential collaboration is when working in the higher education eco-system. Only when all units come together and invest in the success of all students together can everyone succeed."



What are you most looking forward to as a new SAHE alumni?

"Having Saturdays free feels like a dream come true! I am also expecting a baby in June 2023 so my spouse and I are excited to dive into parenthood!"

What is one of your favorite memories from your time in the program?

"Starting grad school during the summer of 2020 is something I will never forget. I wasn't planning to start my degree until 2021, but when all my plans were cancelled I decided to jump in early!"

How has the SAHE program prepared you for your career?

"I have a much stronger understanding of how all the functional areas of the university come together to support student success. Knowing more about each area helps me connect and collaborate more with the partners I support from my role in the advancement world."

What advice would you give the soon to be graduating cohort?

"I know it's no one's favorite thing, but try to work ahead as much as you can at the start of the semester. By the end of the semester I am usually right on track or just slightly behind thanks to working ahead. A few times a semester try to go to the library right after class gets out to work on homework since you're already in the mode of doing schoolwork!"

IRISH YOU WERE HERE!

After several years, the SAHE Program was finally able to study abroad for 10 days in Ireland this January. Enjoy some photos of our students and faculty during their exciting trip, sláinte!



ALUMNI UPDATES

Congratulations to our past graduates on beginning new adventures, positions, and awards.

Dr. Sean Dean - Class of 2015

New Position: County & EDI Performance Analyst
in the Performance Management Division of the
Colorado Department of Human Services

Breanna Christian - Class of 2023

New Position: Academic Advisor for Pre-Health
at the Community College of Denver

Dr. Terainer Brown - Class of 2015

New Position: Educational Technical Advisor
for College & Career Programs with
the United States Airforce

Zak Kroger - Class of 2014

New Position: UCCS Downtown Site Director

Blake Barnes - Class of 2020

New Position: Learning Specialist at CU Boulder

Dr. Amanda Allee - Class of 2010

New Volunteer Role: Board of Trustees
Member for Leadership Pikes Peak

Branden Williams - Class of 2012

New Position: Program Coordinator for
Kidpower of Colorado

Jonothan Stephenson - Class of 2018

New Position: Assistant Director of Residential
of Residential Experience at Colorado College

Kolby Stallings - Class of 2015

New Position: Associate Director of
Admission at Scripps College

Beckie Munoz - Class of 2021

New Position: Program & Experiential Learning
Coordinator in the UCCS College of Business

Dr. Sandy Ho - Class of 2010

New Position: Chief EDI Officer at the Colorado
Department of Human Services